

4. Notes on some Birds from Timor-Laut.

By R. SALVADORI, C.M.Z.S.

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In the July number of the 'Ibis,' p. 355, I said that, "judging from what I know of the geographical distribution of the birds in the Papuan subregion . . . several forms from Timor-Laut, described as new by Dr. Meyer, and which by Mr. Selater have been attributed to Ké-Islands species, must be really distinct." Then I added that I thought that it would be found that such was the case with *Geofroyus timorlaoënsis* and *Philemon timorlaoënsis*; as to *Artamus musschenbroeki*, *Calornis circumscripta*, and *Ptilopus flavo-virescens* I was rather doubtful. Also I mentioned that the *Urospizias* from Timor-Laut (doubtfully attributed by Dr. Meyer to *U. albiventris*, Salvad., from Ké Islands) I suspected to belong to a different species. The same remarks I made as to the Crow from Timor-Laut, attributed by Dr. Selater to *C. validissimus*, and also as regards the *Stigmatops* attributed to *S. squamata*, and the so-called *Dicruropsis bracteata*.

Since I wrote these remarks I have obtained from Dr. Meyer specimens of all the species mentioned but the last two¹, and also of some others; and I wish to bring forward a few notes concerning the specimens examined, especially as I agree more closely with Dr. Meyer's conclusions than with those published lately by Mr. H. O. Forbes (P. Z. S. 1884, pp. 425-434).

UROSPIZIAS, sp.

Urospizias albiventris, Salvad.?, Meyer, Sitz. u. Abh. Gesell. Isis, 1884 (Separat-Abdruck, p. 11); Forbes, P. Z. S. 1884, p. 426.

Astur albiventris, Forbes, P. Z. S. 1884, p. 431, n. 1.

Dr. Meyer has doubtfully attributed the specimens received from Timor-Laut to my *U. albiventris*, and I have already expressed my suspicion that they most likely belong to a different species.

Since then I have received from Dr. Meyer three specimens from Timor-Laut, one fully adult and two young birds.

The adult bird resembles the type from Ké Islands described by me, but it differs from it in the following points:—The grey colour of the upper parts is a little darker; the reddish colour of the chest is less vivid, being tinged with greyish; the tibiæ and the under wing-coverts are purer white and not tinged with reddish.

Of the two young birds, one is like the young bird from the Ké Islands, also described by me, while the other has the fore neck darker, from the dark spots being larger and nearly confluent.

After having made these comparisons, it seems to me not improbable that the Timor-Laut specimens belong to a form distinct from that of the Ké Islands; but before deciding the point we must have large series of specimens from both localities.

¹ Quite recently Dr. Meyer has specifically separated the *Stigmatops* as *S. salvadorii* (Zeitschr. f. d. Ges. Orn. 1884, p. 217, Separat-Abdruck, p. 28).

GEOFFROYUS TIMORLAOËNSIS, Meyer.

Geoffroyus keiensis, Sclat. (nec Salvad.), P. Z. S. 1883, pp. 51, 200; Forbes, P. Z. S. 1884, p. 431, n. 10.

Geoffroyus timorlaoënsis, Meyer, l. c. p. 15.

I have examined four typical specimens (two adult males, a young male, and a young female) of this species, which is really much smaller than *G. keiensis*¹, and has the outer web of the first primary greenish rather than bluish; but this difference is not very noticeable. Respecting the dimensions, *G. timorlaoënsis* is intermediate between *G. keiensis* and *G. aruensis*; as to the blue under wing-coverts, it is exactly like the first. Dr. Meyer goes on pointing out other minor differences between *G. timorlaoënsis* and *G. keiensis*; but it seems probable that one more important difference, not mentioned by him, ought to be added; as, having called Dr. Meyer's attention to the colour of the head of the females, he writes that it is *never so dark* in *G. timorlaoënsis* as in *G. keiensis*. The female sent to me being a young one, with the head green like the neck, I have not been able to appreciate the value of this difference myself.

PACHYCEPHALA ARCTITORQUIS, Sclat.

Pachycephala arctitorquis, Sclat. P. Z. S. 1883, pp. 55, 191, pl. xiii.; Meyer, l. c. p. 34; Forbes, l. c. p. 428.

Four specimens examined: two adult males, a male moulting, and a female.

Besides these, Dr. Meyer has sent me five typical specimens of his *Pachycephala riedeli*, of which two are marked male and female, while the other three are unsexed. My impression is that these five specimens are the young of *P. arctitorquis*; *but I may be wrong*. Also, from Mr. Forbes's experience it would appear that *P. riedeli* is really the young of *P. arctitorquis*.

ARTAMUS MUSSCHENBROEKI, Meyer.

Artamus leucogaster, Sclat. (nec Salv.), P. Z. S. 1883, pp. 51, 195, 200; Forbes, P. Z. S. 1884, pp. 427, 432, n. 27.

Artamus musschenbroeki, Meyer, op. cit. p. 30.

Six typical specimens, which really differ from true *A. leucogaster*, as Dr. Meyer has pointed out. To the differences mentioned by him, I would add that the bill in all the six Timor-Laut specimens examined by me is constantly larger (0.020–0.021 metre) than in *A. leucogaster* from Java, the Moluccas, New Guinea, Aru Islands, and Australia (0.017–0.019 metre). I wish also to mention that the white tips of the rectrices in the six Timor-Laut specimens inspected by me are rather conspicuous, so much so that it certainly would have not escaped my attention when I described *A. leucogaster* if present in this species as it is in *A. musschenbroeki*.

¹ Mr. Forbes admits that the wing-measurements are less in Timor-Laut specimens, but, according to him, these have the total length greater than in *G. keiensis*; my experience is quite the reverse, *G. keiensis* being the largest in every respect.

PHILEMON TIMORLAOËNSIS, Meyer.

Philemon plumigenis, Sclat. (nec Gray), P. Z. S. 1883, pp. 51, 195; Sharpe, in Gould's B. New Guinea, pt. xvi. pl. 13.

Philemon timorlaoënsis, Meyer, op. cit. p. 41.

Philemon timorlautensis, Forbes, P. Z. S. 1884, pp. 429, 432, n. 34.

Three typical specimens. I have at hand only one specimen of true *P. plumigenis* from Ké Islands to compare with them. They differ very slightly, having the whole head a little lighter and the sides of the head also paler, the edges of the feathers being nearly silvery whitish; the bill in the Timor-Laut specimens is thinner.

PITTA VIGORSI, Gould.

Pitta brachyura, Meyer (nec Gm.), Sitzb. Isis, 1884, p. 43 (Dammur).

Pitta vigorsii, Meyer, Zeitschr. f. d. ges. Orn. 1884, p. 210 (Timor-Laut).

Two specimens from Dammur and Timor-Laut, which seem referable to this species; but I have not been able to compare them with specimens from Banda.

CALORNIS CIRCUMSCRIPTA, Meyer.

Calornis metallica, Sclat. (nec Temm.), P. Z. S. 1883, pp. 51, 195.

Calornis circumscripta, Meyer, op. cit. p. 49.

Calornis gularis, Forbes (nec Gray), P. Z. S. 1884, pp. 430, 433, n. 41.

Five typical specimens. I am inclined to recognize *C. circumscripta* as a good species, more allied to *C. metallica* than to my *C. inornata* from Mysore. It is to be distinguished from the first, especially on account of the two violet lines which run along the branches of the under mandible on the sides of the throat and meet at the chin, so that they describe a V; besides, it has the green collar on the back of the neck narrower and the upper back is violet, with the green triangular spot in the middle, generally so conspicuous in *C. metallica*, wanting, or scarcely perceptible.

Mr. Forbes has recently stated that *Calornis circumscripta* is the same as *C. gularis*, Gray, from Mysol, hitherto only known from one specimen. I cannot agree to this identification. The type of *C. gularis*, which I have carefully examined, is only an individual variation of *C. metallica* with more purple on the throat, like other specimens from Halmahera and Cape York, examined by me. *C. circumscripta* is evidently an insular form of the widely extended *C. metallica*, like *C. inornata* from Mysore and *C. purpureiceps* from the Admiralty Islands; and I do not think it possible that the same species can be found in Mysol and in Timor-Laut, so wide apart one from the other, while true *C. metallica* lives in so many islands lying between them.

CORVUS LATIROSTRIS, Meyer.

Corvus validissimus, Sclat. (nec Schlegel), P. Z. S. 1883, pp. 21, 200; Forbes, P. Z. S. 1884, p. 433, n. 43.

Corvus latirostris, Meyer, Zeitschr. f. d. ges. Orn. 1884, p. 199.

One typical specimen.

I have already expressed my doubts ('Ibis,' 1884, p. 355) as to the Crow from Timor-Laut being *C. validissimus*, Schlegel. And after having seen the specimen sent me by Dr. Meyer, I fully agree with him that it has nothing whatever to do with that species, and that it is a peculiar one, allied to *C. orru*, but with a much wider lobe at the base of the bill.

PTILOPUS FLAVO-VIRESCENS, Meyer.

Ptilopus xanthogaster, Sclat. (nec Wagler), P. Z. S. 1883, pp. 51, 195, 200; Forbes, P. Z. S. 1884, pp. 430, 433, n. 47.

Ptilopus flavovirescens, Meyer, op. cit. p. 50.

Four typical specimens, which are undoubtedly different from those from Ké Islands, Banka, and Koor, in having the neck and head more conspicuously greenish, the grey shield on the chest a little darker, and in some other minor points; but whether the differences are really specific I cannot decide. In my 'Ornitologia della Papuasia,' vol. iii. p. 6, I have already alluded to the differences, without considering them of specific value, shown by the specimens from Lettie and from Koor compared with those from Banda.

5. Description of a supposed new Species of Flycatcher, of the genus *Rhipidura*, from New Guinea. By E. P. RAMSAY, F.R.S.E., C.M.Z.S., F.L.S., &c.

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RHIPIDURA FALLAX, sp. nov.

Male. Whole of the upper and under surface black; concealed portions of the quills of the wings and tail slightly brownish; apical half of the under wing-coverts and of the axillaries silky white; bill, rictus, legs, and feet black. Total length 5.5 inches, wing 3, tail 3, tarsus 0.7, bill from forehead 0.6, from nostril 0.35, from gape 0.55.

Hab. Astrolabe Range of S.E. New Guinea.

Obs. In plumage *R. fallax* resembles Salvadori's description of *R. brachyrhyncha* of Schlegel, but there is no trace of white over the eye in the present bird.

The feathers on the *forehead* and *loreal* region are *erect* and the tips slightly glossy; a very slight metallic gloss on the head and chest. The bill is stout and strong, arched to the tip, where it is laterally compressed. On the whole this bird has the appearance of a miniature *Dicrurus*, and may have to be placed in a new genus.